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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/573,031	01/30/2007	Mike Soumokil	07781.0271-00	4433
60668 7590 08/15/2011 SAP / FINNEGAN, HENDERSON LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413				
EXAMINER				
ANDERSON, JOHN A				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3694				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/15/2011		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/573,031

**Applicant(s)**

SOUKOKIL, MIKE

**Examiner**

JOHN ANDERSON

**Art Unit**

3694

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2011.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 30,31,36,38,40,41,45 and 49-55 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 30,31,36,38,40,41,45 and 49-55 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-946)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Amendment***

1. In the amendment filed 07/07/2011, Claims 30,31,36,38,40,41,45 and 49-55 are pending and are presented for examination.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102**

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:  
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -  
(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351 (a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21 (2) of such treaty in the English language.
3. Claims 30-31,40, 51-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Brown j (PGPub 2010/0023452).
4. As regards claims 30, 54 and 55, Brown j discloses (Currently Amended) a method for processing invoices, the method being performed by a computer and comprising:  
selecting, from a plurality of electronic-invoice records, by using a processor of the computer, invoices which are due within a pre-selectable time or on a pre-

selectable date [0066]

assigning a first state to the selected invoices, wherein the assigned first state includes a first set of characters that are stored in a data field of each selected electronic-invoice record; [0064]

selecting, from the plurality of electronic-invoice records, invoices that satisfy a specified condition; [0064] assigning a second state to said selected invoices that satisfy the condition, wherein the second assigned state includes a second set of characters that are stored with the first set of characters in the data field of each selected electronic-invoice record; and [0065] using the first state and the second state to control processing of the invoices. [0066]

5. As regards claim 31, Brown j discloses (Currently Amended) the method of claim 30, further comprising:  
selecting, from said plurality of electronic-invoice records, invoices which meet the additional condition that the respective balance is larger than a pre-selectable first value. [0066]
6. As regards claim 40, Brown j discloses (Currently Amended) the method of claim 31, wherein the pre-selectable first value is such that a pre-selectable percentage of outstanding active debts or turnover is controlled. [0066]
7. As regards claim 51, Brown j discloses (Currently Amended) the method of claim 30, further comprising:  
receiving a request for a state change of a selected invoice from a customer; and  
changing the state of the invoice according to said request. [0102]
8. As regards claim 52, Brown j discloses (Previously Presented) the method of claim 51, further comprising presenting the request to an internal clearing division

before changing the state. [0102]

9. As regards claim 53, Brown j discloses (Previously Presented) the method of claim 30, wherein the method is implemented as part of software for supporting business processes, the software comprising enterprise resource planning software. [0010]

### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1,148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:
  1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
  2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
  3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.

4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
12. Claims 36,38, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown j (PGPub 2010/0023452) and further in view of Neely R I (Patent 6044362)
13. As regards claims 36 and 38, Brown j discloses (Currently Amended) the method of claim 31, further comprising:  
assigning a third state to the second invoices, the second value being smaller than or equal to the first value, and the third value being smaller than the second value [0065]

Brown j does not disclose selecting, from said plurality of electronic-invoice records second invoices, a balance of each of which is smaller than a pre-selectable second value and larger than a pre-selectable third value;  
Neely discloses selecting, from said plurality of electronic-invoice records second invoices, a balance of each of which is smaller than a pre-selectable second value and larger than a pre-selectable third value; [column 5 lines 10-11]  
It would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use Neely in the device of Brown j. The motivation would have been to customer 20 is provided with a number of options for changing the payment instructions to create modified payment instruction 52a. [column 4 line 66-column 5 lines 5]

14. Claim 41,45 and 49,50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown j (PGPub 2010/0023452 and in view of Neely R (Patent 6044362) and further view of Kriplani S (Patent 7353203).
15. As regards claim 41, Brown j does not disclose (Previously Presented) the method of claim 38, further comprising: presenting the invoices of at least one of the first state, the second state, the third state, and the fourth state to a cash collector.  
Kriplani discloses presenting the invoices of at least one of the first state, the second state, the third state, and the fourth state to a cash collector. [column 2 lines 46-56]

It would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use Kriplani in the device of Brown j. The motivation would have been to settle disputes regarding payment. [column 2 lines 46-56]

16. As regards claim 45, Brown j does not disclose (Currently Amended) the method claim 41, further comprising:  
controlling, by said cash collector, whether payments according to the invoices of at least one of the first state and the second state have been made before, on, or after the due date of each invoice, and, in case of non-payment of an invoice, presenting the non-payment invoices invoice to a collecting service.  
Kriplani discloses controlling, by said cash collector, whether payments according to the invoices of at least one of the first state and the second state have been made before, on, or after the due date of each invoice, and, in case of non-payment of an invoice [column 3 line 50-67]  
presenting the non-payment invoices invoice to a collecting service. [column 2 lines 46-56]

It would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use Kriplani in the device of Brown j. The motivation would have been to settle disputes regarding payment. [column 2 lines 46-56]

17. As regards claim 49, Brown j does not disclose (Previously Presented) the method of claim 45, further comprising checking whether a non-payment is reasoned, and if the non-payment is not reasoned, presenting such non-payment invoice to an external collecting agency.

Kriplani discloses comprising checking whether a non-payment is reasoned, and if the non-payment is not reasoned, presenting such non-payment invoice to an external collecting agency. [column 2 lines 46-56]

It would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use Kriplani in the device of Brown j. The motivation would have been to settle disputes regarding payment. [column 2 lines 46-56]

18. As regards claim 50, Brown j does not disclose (Previously Presented) the method of claim 45, further comprising presenting the non-payment invoices to the collecting service as a to-do-list.

Kriplani discloses further comprising presenting the non-payment invoices to the collecting service as a to-do-list. [column 4 lines 3-18]

It would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use Kriplani in the device of Brown j. The motivation would have been to settle disputes regarding payment. [column 2 lines 46-56]

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 07/07/2011 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.



Brown states a main page 500 as shown in FIG. 5 may be provided to allow a manager to navigate within the services associated with the invoice management system. The main page display 500 may have invoice type selection buttons 502a, 502b, 502c to allow selection of invoice types. [0065] .

Within the utilities quick access display 504, categorical information such as "Number of Unpaid Invoices" 514, "Next Invoice Due Date" 516, or "outstanding disputes" 518 may be displayed for a manager.[0066].

It should be clear to the Applicant that Brown discloses "selecting, from a plurality of electronic-invoice records, by using a processor of the computer, invoices which are due within a pre-selectable time or on a pre- selectable date".

It is further understood that a due date or time implies that the date or time is preselected.

Brown states [0046] Once fields have been identified, character recognition capabilities may be applied 318 to the characters contained in a specific field to associate 320 the value of the characters contained in the field. The values and the field with which the value is associated may then be stored 322 for later processing.

[0047] When it is detected 324 that an invoice has been received in an electronic format, such as via a modem or network interface, the format of the invoice may be identified 326. Detecting the format of the invoice may be accomplished by searching the received information for specific character strings, filed headers, or file name extensions. Once the format of the electronic invoice has been identified 326, values contained within the invoice may be associated 328 with requisite fields, and stored 330 for later processing.

[0064] An invoice payment button may also be provided, such that activation of the bill payment button initiates a process for assisting the manager in paying an invoice, such as by generating a message to an accounting function that the

invoice is approved for payment, or by generating an electronic funds transfer in satisfaction of an invoice.

Brown discloses a state, interpreted by the examiner as pertaining to a specific field and identified and designated by alpha numeric characters that are recognized by character recognition capabilities.

Brown states the values and the field with which the value is associated may then be stored 322 for later processing.[0046]

It should be clear to the Applicant that Brown use of the fields and values are the states in the limitations of the claims utilized in the processing of the invoices.

Applicant's arguments as they pertain to claims 54 and 55 are based on those directed to claim 30. Rejection of claims 54 and 55 are maintained for the same reasons of claim 30 rejection.

Applicant's arguments as they pertain to claims 31, 36, 38, 40, 41, 45, 49-53 claims are also based on arguments directed to claim 30. Rejection of claims 54 and 55 are maintained for the same reasons of claim 30 rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will

the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN ANDERSON whose telephone number is (571)270-3327. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00 to 5:00 Pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Abdi can be reached on 571-272-6702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

John A Anderson  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3694

/Ella Colbert/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3694